United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council decides unanimously to extend UNPROFOR mandate by three months until 30 September; asks Secretary-General to report on implementation of peace-keeping plan for Croatia and says it will reconsider UNPROFOR's mandate in Republic.

- Security Council decides last night not to exempt Bosnia and Herzegovina from arms embargo on former Yugoslavia; 6 votes in favour of draft resolution -- sponsored by non-aligned members -- to none against, with nine abstentions.

- Security Council, in Presidential statement, urges UNITA to cooperate with United Nations emergency programme in Angola; says failure to do so would be viewed seriously.

- Security Council Committee to monitor sanctions against Haiti holds first meeting; elects Roble Olhaye (Djibouti) Chairman.

- Tanzania says it regrets that Rwanda peace agreement was not signed at Arusha peace talks; appeals to Government of Rwanda and Rwandese Patriotic Front to conclude agreement, warning of serious conflict.

- UNOSOM II destroys compound in Mogadishu where two Pakistani soldiers were killed on Monday; engagement described as a success.

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The Security Council, acting under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter, today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) by three months until 30 September. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report in one month on the implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping plan for Croatia and relevant Council resolutions, taking into account the Croation Government's position, and decided to reconsider, in the light of that report, UNPROFOR's mandate in Croatia. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 847 (1993).

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By the resolution, the Council approved the Secretary-General's report on UNPROFOR of 25 June, and the request for additional resources contained in his report of 15 May. The Council said it was determined to ensure the security of UNPROFOR and its freedom of movement for all its missions. The Council strongly condemned continuing military attacks within Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and reaffirmed its commitment to ensure respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Croatia and other member States where UNPROFOR was deployed. It called on all concerned to reach an agreement on confidence-building measures in Croatia.

The Council also recalled the overwhelming importance of seeking, on the basis of its resolutions, comprehensive political solutions to the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, and of sustaining confidence and stability in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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The Security Council last night rejected a draft resolution that would have exempted Bosnia and Herzegovina from the arms embargo imposed on the former Yugoslavia by its resolution 713 (1991). It took that action by a show-of-hands vote of 6 in favour to none against, with 9 abstentions. Cape Verde, Djibouti, Morocco, Pakistan, the United States and Venezuela voted in favour of the draft, which had been sponsored by non-aligned members of the Council. Brazil, China, France, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Spain and the United Kingdom abstained.

By the draft, the Council, acting under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter, would have reaffirmed the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It would also have demanded that all hostilities within the Republic end immediately, and that the consequences of hostilities against it be reversed.

Introducing the draft, Cape Verde said that after many failed attempts to have the United Nations play its role of maintaining peace and security, the Bosnian Muslims should either be allowed to die at the hands of their enemies or to exercise the right of self-defence. Bosnia and Herzegovina said indefinite negotiations and conferences did not necessarily advance the cause of peace. The international community had no right to demand further concessions from it, but should allow it to defend itself.

Speaking in explanation of vote, the United Kingdom said lifting the embargo would not help the people it was meant to assist, and would probably cause the situation to deteriorate. The United States reaffirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had a right to defend itself. The Council's vote should not be seen as an indication that the international community was ignoring the violations of human rights committed by the Bosnian Serbs, the United States added.

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The Security Council, in a statement issued by its President, Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain), today expressed concern that it had not been possible to continue the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected areas in Angola, begun on 21 June, because of the failure of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to cooperate with the full implementation of the United Nations emergency programme.

The Council urged UNITA to cooperate to facilitate the delivery of emergency humanitarian aid, and emphasized that it would view the matter seriously if UNITA failed to do so.

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The Security Council Committee established to monitor the implementation of sanctions imposed against Haiti by Council resolution 841 (1993) held its first meeting today. Roble Olhaye (Djibouti) was elected Chairman until the end of the year, while the delegations of Pakistan and Spain were designated Vice-Chairmen.

The Committee began its substantive work by considering its programme of work, and decided to establish a set of guidelines for the conduct of its work. The Committee noted that all States were required to report to the Secretary-General by 16 July on measures taken to implement resolution 841 (1993), and that it was mandated to examine those reports.

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Tanzania has said that it regrets that a peace agreement was not signed by the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) at talks hosted by it in Arusha, due to circumstances deemed unavoidable by the Government of Rwanda. Tanzania's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said in a letter to the Security Council that a comprehensive peace agreement was needed as soon as possible, as any delay could lead to an escalating conflict with ominous consequences for Rwanda and for Africa as a whole.

Tanzania noted that since the talks had begun in July 1992, the parties had been able to negotiate a cease-fire agreement and protocols on the rule of law, power-sharing, refugees and displaced persons. Tanzania appealed to the parties to exercise maximum restraint and to ensure that a comprehensive agreement was reached quickly, stressing that it remained committed to the peace process.

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United States forces belonging to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) today destroyed a compound area in Mogadishu where two Pakistani soldiers had been killed and three wounded on Monday, according to a United Nations spokesman. The site was believed to have housed the militia which shot and wounded one Pakistani and two American soldiers on Sunday.

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The compound today housed heavy engineering equipment which had been used to erect barricades and roadblocks, in addition to weapons and ammunition. There were no injuries to UNOSOM troops, and no reports of Somali casualties, and the engagement was considered a success, the spokesman said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that social development was one of the main challenges facing the international community, and would require redistribution, integration and protection. He told the high-level session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva that a new development policy was one of his main goals, and that he had thus begun to restructure the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

Economic redistribution must be promoted for the sake of equity, the Secretary-General said. It must be aimed at the most deprived, and go hand-in-hand with an augmentation of production. Integration must be aimed at those who were marginalized by unemployment and underemployment. Protection meant reducing economic and social uncertainties by providing generalized social coverage, particularly in the health field.

Despite months of negotiations, little progress had been achieved in reforming the United Nations system, the Secretary-General continued. The Economic and Social Council should provide leadership on economic and social policy. Only the United Nations could lead the world to a new view of economic and social progress. He appealed to Member States to help put the reform and restructuring of the Organization back on track.

The Secretary-General stressed that social development was the basis of all development, and said that the elimination of poverty would require stable and sustained global economic growth, with the participation of poor people and poor countries.

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